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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 15 May 1973

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1. [redacted] Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, called this morning to ask about the handling of General Walter's affidavit concerning the Watergate matter, a copy of which I had sent to Mr. Woolsey, of the Committee staff, and Senator Symington this morning. I said we were not making it public, but felt that the interested committees should have immediate access to it and that General Walters planned to make a copy available to the grand jury before which he was appearing this morning. I explained that Larry Houston had talked to Petersen about its possible release and, while not enthusiastic, Petersen felt no great damage would be done to the legal handling of the case if the affidavit were made public. I said that the information contained in the affidavit would in all likelihood soon become public, either through leaks or the revelation of Walters' testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday (which covered the same ground) and so if Symington wanted to make the affidavit public we would have no objection.

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2. [redacted] At the request of Ambassador Helms, called Marshall Wright's office in State Department, to say that Helms had access to all the transcripts he needed and would not have to call on Wright for assistance in this regard.

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3. [redacted] Senator Stuart Symington called to tell us he was having a press conference at 2:30 this afternoon and to suggest that Helms review the transcript of hearings [redacted] since questions on this subject 25X1 might come up when he appears before the Symington Subcommittee of Foreign Relations Committee tomorrow.

Later, after his press conference, Symington called to say that he had decided not to release General Walters' affidavit, but to recommend that the Agency release it. I pointed out that the Agency normally preferred not to issue statements of this kind, and suggested that it might better be released by the Committee. Symington disagreed, and I told him I would pass his recommendation on to the Director. He said a number of questions at the press conference were pointed at Helms. 25X1

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